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HONOLULU, H. T., TUESDAY NOVEMBER 10, 1903—SEMI-WEEKLY.

WHOLE No. 2537.

CARTER AND COOPER DIFFER SHARPLY ABOUT RECENT LAND TRANSACTIONS

Lively Scenes in the Executive Council—Carter Can't Find Out How Deeply the Territory is Involved by Cooper's Private Agreements—Cooper Will Give Him No Further Information—Territory vs. Counties.

The big raft of land exchanges proposed by H. E. Cooper, Superintendent of Public Works, as exhibited in Sunday's Advertiser, struck a series of snags in the endeavor to bring it into the port of confirmation yesterday. All of the propositions grounded at low water and there was no almanac in the capitol to show when the tide would rise high enough again to float any of them.

Several prominent negotiators for public land in exchange for land desired for street purposes and public building sites attended the meeting of the executive council, those present being: Governor Dole, Secretary Carter, Superintendent Cooper, Treasurer Keopokal, A. T. Atkinson, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dr. C. B. Cooper (President of the Board of Health), Land Commissioner Boyd, Tax Assessor Pratt, Private Secretary Hawes, Wm. G. Irwin and W. M. Giffard of W. G. Irwin & Co., Trustee W. O. Smith and Surveyor F. S. Dodge of the B. P. Bishop estate.

The first matter submitted was side-tracked after a short discussion, because Commissioner Boyd had not an opportunity of investigating the public lands proposed to be exchanged. This was the matter of an exchange of the Pololu land, Kohala, and Pauoa taro land, Oahu, with the Bishop estate, for a piece of land at Nuuanu avenue and Pauoa road wanted for a public park. Governor Dole asked if there was any occasion for haste on the part of the Bishop estate. Mr. Smith answered that the land desired for a park was being filled in, and if taken by the Government the expense of such improvement would have to be considered. If not taken, it would probably be sold as house lots. The Governor deferred the matter until the Land Commissioner should report on the value of the Pololu land.

ARMORY AND SCHOOL.

Next came the proposal of acquiring the land at Beretania, Miller and Vineyard streets for the N. G. H. armory and Royal school sites—though Superintendent Atkinson understood it was the Normal not the Royal school—in exchange for Alea land forming part of the Honolulu plantation on a basis of \$45,000 valuation for each property. The town premises were bought at auction on Saturday last by W. G. Irwin from the trustees of Oahu College at the upset price of \$45,000.

Mr. Cooper read a letter from the Honolulu Plantation Co., giving figures to show the value it put upon the land.

The area of the land proposed to be given by the government was 1175 acres.

BREAKERS AHEAD.

Mr. Carter at this stage intervened to inquire why the seeming haste in trying to conclude these land exchanges. He also asked for further explanation of the \$45,000 basis. Replying on the latter score, Mr. Cooper said the basis was reached on a consideration of the general status of the land and surveys. Mr. Carter commented further upon the seeming haste, saying he could not see the necessity for such a rush as the administration was about to change. He spoke of similar matters having been put through in haste before, causing dissatisfaction to taxpayers. It appeared to him that the attitude of the retiring administration toward the incoming one showed a lack of confidence. Mr. Carter attributed to Mr. Cooper an expressed idea that he considered the interests of his department ahead of the interests of the taxpayers.

It may here be recalled that Secretary Carter, some time before he last went to Washington, made public his opposition in the executive council to the system of land exchanges on a large scale which Superintendent Cooper had inaugurated.

COOPER DEMURS.

Mr. Cooper demurred to the term "rush." It was not a case of rushing matters. For several months after he took office he was snowed under with unfinished business his predecessors had left. There was no surprise about the present matters, they having been under consideration for a long time.

Mr. Carter insisted that the Alea land matter was new so far as the armory site was concerned, which Mr. Cooper admitted, and then the Secretary said he had been trying for some time to get a statement of the financial condition of the Territory. He contradicted a remark of the Superintendent that the latter had nothing to do with the finances, going on to protest against the disposal of revenue-paying lands for armory and school sites. The retiring Superintendent of Public Works might leave as much unfinished business as he pleased, so far as the new administration was concerned.

THE GOVERNOR INTERVENES.

Secretary Carter having referred to an esplanade land transaction as another one being rushed, Mr. Cooper said it had been pending for six months past. Governor Dole remarked he thought it was not correct to speak of rushing that matter, as it had been under consideration long before anything was known of the coming change of administration.

A running debate ensued, the Governor replying that he had not a thorough knowledge of the matter.

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SECRETARY CARTER'S STATEMENT.

"There are all kinds of rumors of what occurred in the Executive Council meeting today," said Mr. Carter yesterday afternoon. "I desire to state for the benefit of the public, that what I am endeavoring to get at is the actual financial condition of the Territory as it stands today. Governor Dole feels that he has sufficient data to guide his actions, but I do not share this feeling yet. Here is an illustration. I asked the Superintendent of Public Works to give me a statement of those contracts and other matters which he had entered into and which affected the moneys to be received from the sale of the Territorial bonds. I did not receive the information asked for, and reminded Mr. Cooper about it, and asked him if he would not be kind enough to let me know before anything else was done. I thought it only fair to the new administration to not go ahead on such matters without my knowledge."

"At the meeting this morning Mr. Cooper read a statement of all the contracts made by his department. Only two of these affected the Loan Bill. These were the storm drains and the Diamond Head reservoir. Under the County Act, it was the desire of the Legislature, and I think it was with the universal approval of the people of this Territory, to turn the water works over to the counties as well as the sewerage systems. If this is to be done it seems to me a wrong policy to spend the money which future taxpayers will have to contribute towards the interest, and eventually pay the principal, on public improvements which become an asset of the county. The million dollars negotiated on the loan should be expended for the benefit of the Territory as a whole, not for the County of Oahu, or for any other county. I asked Mr. Cooper if this was the only thing and I also asked why he did not include in current expenses his arrangements with steamship companies by which they are to pay the money for building the wharves they need and get in return warrants drawing five per cent interest. He replied that he had not entered into any agreement yet for these wharves."

"Since the meeting today, I was stopped on the street by Mr. Low of the Honolulu Plantation, and he informed me that the road boards in his district were shut off from further road work on account of lack of money. Since then on the written instructions of Mr. Cooper they have proceeded with their work with the distinct understanding that they would be reimbursed out of the loan fund money. If that proceeding is to be stopped it is only fair to let plantation managers know so they can cease furnishing money."

"It is just such private agreements which obligate the government, and which are not included in official statement, that make me lose confidence and gain doubt as to whether we really know the financial status of the Territory."

"I want to get at the facts and find out just the condition we are in before I can reach a conclusion that the Territory can afford to give up the revenue of cane lands and exchange them for a \$45,000 armory site. I don't know how many more such arrangements are in existence and what kind of propositions Mr. Cooper's successor will be up against."

"There is apt to be confusion in the minds of many as to what should be county affairs and what should be Territorial affairs, and if we begin to mix them we will get into an interminable tangle and county government won't be a success."

SUPT. COOPER'S STATEMENT.

Superintendent Cooper, after the exchange of notes with Secretary Carter, said to an Advertiser reporter:

"My advice to the contractors for the storm sewer (Lord & Belser) is to complete the contract and make their claim thereon to the Territory. The work is completed from King to Beretania street, and there only remains the section from Beretania to Kinau street to finish."

"I have not seen the contractor for the Diamond Head reservoir (L. M. Whitehouse), but have notified him by message of Mr. Carter's attitude. My advice to him, if he refers the matter to me, will be to go ahead with his contract."

"Mr. Carter said it was a question of law, then one of policy, and again of common sense. I do not know which of these ideas will prevail."

"My contention is that the county has no right to the water works. The Territory has no call to donate half a million dollars' worth of water works plant to the county of Oahu, nor the electric light works, nor the sewers. The roads as a matter of course go over to the county, but the revenue of the water works and of the electric lights belongs to the Territory."

"This trouble arose from the Secretary's action on the mainland in arbitrarily changing the date of opening the bids for bonds from October 19 to November 19. I made all my plans for loan fund expenditures to fit the first date. The Treasurer cabled the advertisement for bids to the Secretary. I knew we had a bid from Pollitz & Co., for the entire issue, so that I felt perfectly safe in going ahead with public works."

After replying to questions to the foregoing effect, Mr. Cooper intimated that he intended to administer the Department of Public Works until his retirement, and would not recognize Mr. Carter as other than Secretary of the Territory until he became in fact the Governor.

ARMY MEN TO VISIT VOLCANO

The Kinau will take quite a party today bound for the Volcano House, among the number being Col. Alexander Mackenzie, U. S. A.; Major Henry B. Moon, U. S. A.; Major William E. Birkhimer, U. S. A.; Mrs. Birkhimer, Captain George W. Read, U. S. A.; Major William B. Davis, U. S. A.; Captain George McK. Williamson, U. S. A.; William Taylor, John Hill, Mrs. Tom Hollinger, R. H. Topham, Mrs. R. H. Topham, Gordon McLean, Mrs. Gordon McLean, W. H. Wilburn.

CONSUL HOARE HONORS HIS KING

His British Majesty's Consul, W. R. Hoare, held a reception yesterday from 11 a. m. to 1 p. m. at the Consulate in honor of the birthday of King Edward VII. The Hawaiian government band was present and played on the lawn under the trees. The reception was largely attended, among the guests being the representatives of foreign countries, government officials and prominent townsmen. Consul Hoare received the guests wearing the gold laced uniform of his rank. Light refreshments were served.

GOVERNMENT WILL AID GEN. REYES' PEACE POLICY

Balfour Thinks There Will Be No War Between Russia and Japan.

(ASSOCIATED PRESS CABLEGRAMS.)

WASHINGTON, Nov. 10.—The Government will facilitate General Reyes' peace mission.

COLON, Nov. 10.—The Government intends to adopt a gold currency.

The French, British and German consuls have addressed a letter of gratitude to the commander of the U. S. S. gunboat Nashville for his protection of their countrymen during the recent troubles.

LONDON, Nov. 10.—At the great banquet given in honor of the King's birthday, Prime Minister Balfour expressed himself as sanguine that there would be no war in the Far East.

The Premier regretted the Alaskan decision but most loyally accepted a settlement of so vexed a question by a tribunal as an inestimable boon.

DENVER, Co., Nov. 10.—Ten thousand coal miners of Colorado are on a strike for eight hours and an increase of pay. Many of the strikers are leaving for other fields and those who are compelled to stay are threatened with famine. Many industries are threatened.

SAN DOMINGO, Nov. 10.—A gunboat is bombarding Mucoris, which is occupied by revolutionists.

HAVANA, Nov. 10.—A train crashed into an omnibus here. Five persons were killed and seven injured.

VIENNA, Nov. 10.—Several officers have been arrested in Bulgaria for threatening the life of Prince Ferdinand.

ST. PETERSBURG, Nov. 10.—Turkey's reply to the Austro-Russian note is unsatisfactory.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 9.—The Colombian minister has presented to the State Department a strong protest on the part of his government against the action of the United States in Panama. Objection is made to the landing of marines on the isthmus and a still more vigorous protest against the recognition of the revolutionists and their government. A further objection is to the sending of the American fleet to patrol the isthmus, thus preventing a landing by the Colombians. Secretary Hay has not sent his reply.

LEGISLATIVE INVESTIGATION WILL AWAIT DOLE'S COMMISSION

Members of the legislature from Maui and Kauai came in on yesterday's steamers in response to a summons from the United States grand jury. The House members are called to testify as to some of the scandals which were continually cropping out during the regular and extra legislative sessions as well as to the whereabouts of the missing vouchers. In view of the sudden death of Judge Estee however, the members of the House who are here, will be allowed to return as there will be no session of the grand jury until after Governor Dole's commission as Federal judge arrives from Washington.

The commissions of both Gov. Dole and Secretary Carter, as Governor, may possibly get here on the Alameda next Friday. The announcement of the appointments were made by President Roosevelt on October 31st, and it is the presumption that the commissions were made out and started on their journey at once. This would allow ample time for the commissions to get here on this week's steamer and the inauguration of Governor Carter could take place early next week. Gov. Dole will take his place as Federal judge immediately and the business of the United States court will then be renewed. The commissions which will arrive now will probably be only until the Senate meets, new commissions being made out as soon as the appointments are confirmed.

Judge Dole will probably receive a report from the Federal grand jury almost as soon as he takes his seat. Quite a number of indictments are reported to be ready in the Japanese slave cases. The new judge may also deem it advisable to give the jury additional instructions.

The legislative investigation will very likely be postponed for at least one week. In the meantime Marshal Hendry will subpoena the Hawaii members of the House to come to Honolulu to testify. One of the most important members in connection with the voucher investigation is from Hawaii. This is Representative Purdy, chairman of the Committee on Accounts, who may know where the vouchers are. Vice-Speaker Knudsen arrived from Kauai yesterday. Representative Randall is already here, and Kaili and Jaeger are also said to be in town. Representative Kellinui and the remaining Maui members are also on hand. Speaker Beckley has been here for some time and the House officials are nearly all residents of Honolulu. The services of none of these men will be required by the grand jury for at least a week and members from the other islands will be told today by District Attorney Breckons that they may return home for at least a week.

WILCOX'S ITALIAN UNIFORM CLAIMED BY HIS WIDOW

In a cabinet in the parlor of Mrs. Theresa Wilcox's home on the slopes of Punchbowl, there are a number of mementos of the late Robert Wilcox, which his widow highly prizes. Among these are the uniform cap, epaulettes, sword belt, cartouche, and other paraphernalia belonging to the full dress equipment of an artillery officer in the Italian army. These were worn by Wilcox during and after his graduation from the Italian military school at Turin, where he had been sent by King Kalakaua to be educated. But there is one of his uniforms which passed from Wilcox's possession during the revolution of '89.

"I intend to ask the Hawaiian Government to return his uniform and sword to me to be kept for his children. Mr. Wilcox is dead, and I can see no reason why my request could be refused. They are now of no use whatever to the Government."

When Wilcox was made a prisoner during the revolution of '89, his uniform and sword were taken from him, the Italian Consul here raising the point that Mr. Wilcox had no right to wear an Italian army uniform, which he wore when discovered in the gas tank. Mrs. Wilcox does not now know where the uniform is kept, or what disposition was made of it.

It is believed that the uniform was sent back to Italy by the Consul.